

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. MARVIN CHASE

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, on December 12 a good man, a fine public servant and a good friend of mine died at the age of 65. Marvin Chase lived in North Stonington and during his lifetime he was truly a citizen in action. For those of us who knew him, his name is synonymous with public service, a love of his community and a deep love for his family and friends.

Marvin was involved with his community. He was a Republican but he was from the school of thought that said, "I don't care what your political affiliation is, I care about you and I care about your ideas." Consequently, he was able to work with individuals from across the political spectrum. He liked and respected people; and he was liked and respected in return.

A 6-year member of the North Stonington Economic Development Commission, which he chaired, Marvin won another 5-year term in November. First Selectman Nicholas H. Mullane II, said Marvin was "probably the best chairman I've ever seen on the EDC."

Marvin did more than keep the seat warm. In 2003 he led the commission as it studied the best way to bring business to town. He also led the commission's two-year effort to create a low-impact commercial development zone near Interstate 95 exit 92, which the Planning and Zoning Commission approved in February. And that zone change drew immediate interest from businesses.

Marvin was always sensitive of the need to balance business with the rural nature of our community and our region in southeastern Connecticut. He wanted to attract businesses so that taxes could be kept under control and so that there would be jobs; but he knew how important it was to ensure that North Stonington kept the quiet characteristics that make it such a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Marvin belonged to the North Stonington Grange, served on the North Stonington Fair Committee and for more than 30 years he was a member of what is now the Masonic United Coastal Lodge 57. A former deacon of United Church in Stonington, Marvin served until a few years ago as moderator of the First Baptist Church in North Stonington. He was chairman of the North Stonington Republican Town Committee and a lifetime member of the North Stonington Fire Company.

Marvin worked for the State of Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department as an inspector for the Dealers and Repairers Division and he owned and operated a Shell Service Station in Preston for many years.

There was also a racy side to Marvin—he drove race cars at the Thompson Motor Speedway, Norwood Arena, Waterford Speedbowl and Stafford Speedway from 1960

to 2001. And he was vice president of the New England Antique Racer's Association.

Finally, Marvin played a significant role in all of my political campaigns, offering me his sage advice and insights to a variety of issues. His was always a voice of reason and sound judgment. He was a friend—and a friend can tell you things you do not want to tell yourself. But those are often things you most need to hear. I will miss him greatly.

CONGRATULATING THE LAKELAND DREADNAUGHTS AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS "NULLI SECUNDUS"

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to applaud the accomplishments of the Lakeland High School Varsity Football team from Lakeland, Florida—the 2005 Class 5A Florida State Champions and the 2005 National Champions.

Coach Bill Castle, 2004 5A Coach of the Year and recent inductee of the Polk County Sports Hall of Fame, led the Dreadnaught's to their 5th State Championship, 17th District Championship, and 1st National Championship. The Dreadnaughts defeated Ft. Lauderdale's St. Thomas Aquinas, 39–19, ending their season at 15–0, in a rematch of last years title for the Class 5A State Championship. This is the first time a Polk County football team has won back-to-back State titles, and the first time that two top-five nationally ranked teams have met this late in the season.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Coach Castle and his staff, Dan Talbot, Dan Moonet, Frank Webster, Chris Davis, Clay Taylor, Jason Butler, Michael Peeples, Denny Krahe, and Brian Abdon, for the positive example they set and for the leadership they provide. In addition, Principal Mark Thomas and his administration, Athletic Director Sid Kimbrell, the faculty and staff, the parents, the students, the alumni and the fans should all be commended for their community spirit and constant support.

Most importantly, however, I would like to recognize those outstanding student athletes, who exemplified the hard work, character, and sportsmanship, to make this victory possible: Matt Grier, Scott Bryant, Chris Rainey, Rashard Coleman, Andre Walker, Pat Turner, Deonte Parker, T.K. Lamb, Ledarius Dobie, Darius Jones, Tyler Grantham, Billy Lowe, Awtan Glover, Jordan Hammond, Jesse Smart, Paul Wilson, Adam Williams, Blair Castle, Leon Covington, Steve Wilks, Cedric Edom, Preston Chatmon, Ahmad Black, Jamar Taylor, Troy Johnson, Calvin Shaw, Derrell Harrison, Connor Johnson, Tony McElrath, Aaron Walters, Devon Terry, Justin Burdette, Bryant Peace, Matt Roddenbery, Nic Moody, Colin Clyne, Quinten Campbell, Mike Jensen,

Michael Horton, David Liason, Ben Wilcox, Jensen Harris, Justin Calabrese, James Campbell, John Brown, Eagar Lewis. The Dreadnaughts prove that academic excellence, intensive training and a lot of heart, will lead a team to victory. The school's motto is "Nulli Secundus," which means "Second to None." I know that I speak for every member in offering congratulations and the best of luck to the Lakeland Dreadnaughts, who officially are "second to none" in the Nation.

FURTHER CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the fiscal year 2006 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Conference Report. I was dismayed to hear my friend, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, state that this bill "more than any other, illustrates the compassion of the American people." But the American people did not produce this bill, and, judging from the hundreds of calls and letters to my office, they do not support its provisions.

Across the board, in nearly every area of importance to American families, our citizens are shortchanged by this bill. The Labor-HHS-Education bill is often the most contentious appropriations measure to move through Congress. This is because the programs it funds affect the health, the quality of life, indeed the future of every American. This year, the original version of the conference report was deemed so harmful that it was rejected once already on November 17. Today, the authors of this bill have returned it to the floor with a few cosmetic changes designed only to secure enough votes to squeak the bill through. But this so-called "new and improved version" will be no less objectionable to the sensibilities of the American people and certainly no less harmful to American families.

This legislation sends a clear message to the American people: for educational opportunity, for food assistance to elderly Americans, for help with heating bills next winter, for access to quality health care, for advances in medical research: do not look to this Congress for help.

The majority says it cares about families, about better education, about improved health care, about a productive workforce, about economic opportunity. But it has produced a bill that cuts the bootstraps of middle class families trying to stay afloat and aspiring families who are reaching for the American dream.

Overall, this bill cuts \$1.5 billion from last year's funding levels. Let us examine what effect these cuts will have on our Nation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A strong and productive workforce is key to our Nation's future. According to the Department of Labor, nearly 8 million Americans and 120,000 Marylanders are unemployed. But this Congress is poised to slash more than \$400 million from job training and employment services funding.

It will also cut State unemployment insurance and employment service offices by \$245 million, and assistance for approximately 1.9 million people will be jeopardized.

This bill also cuts by \$250 million the Community College Initiative, which is President Bush's initiative to help community colleges train prospective workers for high-skill jobs. The conference report cuts funding for that effort by \$125 million and rescinds \$125 million from fiscal year 2005 funds.

A healthy America is key to our Nation's future. We have more than 45 million Americans without health insurance. Many of them rely on networks of community health centers to receive much needed care. I was encouraged by the President's initiative to increase the number of community health centers around the country, but the conference report provides \$238 million less than the President's request. The Republican leadership supports this conference report, despite the fact that this House passed in July a resolution stating that community health centers are "vital to the nation's communities." Surely, the dedicated workers at our health centers will find the words of that resolution hollow if this conference report is passed. This conference report cuts health care access for underserved areas of the country. It eliminates the community access program, which provides lifesaving and life-enhancing health care to many regions that lack a sufficient number of health care facilities.

This bill cuts title VII health professions programs by 69 percent and it eradicates several programs entirely. This is particularly outrageous coming from a Congress that claims to want to end health disparities. Johns Hopkins Institutions in my home town of Baltimore receive more than \$2.5 million in funding for title VII grants. These programs serve different spheres of the health care system, from the Schools of Nursing, Public Health and Medicine. All of this funding is jeopardized by the bill before us today.

The National Institutes of Health is headquartered in my home State of Maryland. Over the past year, I have met with dozens of representatives from patient groups. They are aware that the President's budget for fiscal year 2006 proposed the smallest increase for NIH in 36 years. The paltry increase in this bill does not even keep pace with inflation. What does it mean in real terms? Not only will we not be able to increase our efforts to fight diabetes, HIV/AIDS, cancer, brain injury, Alzheimer's and other pernicious diseases, we will actually see a reduction in the number of grants and the number of research projects funded by NIH.

Improvements in education are key to our Nation's future. This Congress speaks often about the need to hold our schools accountable, yet this conference takes away the funding our school districts need to improve students' achievement levels.

Title I funding for low-income children are given a 0.8 percent increase—the smallest increase in 8 years, and only a fraction of the increase requested by the President. Special

education grants receive a 0.9 percent increase—the smallest increase in 10 years.

We talk a lot about the need to increase education technology, yet this conference report cuts that funding by nearly half. We speak of the need to protect our children from violence and illegal drugs, but this bill cuts Safe and Drug-Free Schools by one-fifth, and provides no increase for after-school programs for the fourth consecutive year.

Everyone in this House can agree that the cost of higher education is soaring, but this conference report fails to provide any increase whatsoever for Pell grants, without which so many college students could not continue their education. President Bush proposed a \$100 increase, the House passed a \$50 increase, but the conferees did not even provide that. Instead, they froze the maximum Pell grant amount at \$4,050 for the fourth consecutive year.

Finally, our goodness as a nation is measured by how we treat the most vulnerable Americans. If we are to truly be a great nation, we must care for those who are less able to care for themselves. It is disappointing that this conference report slashes funding for the Social Security Administration, which is entrusted with processing disability claims for millions of Americans. In my district, the Third Congressional District of Maryland, I represent many employees of the Social Security Administration. They are hardworking, dedicated staffers, but they can only do so much without adequate funding for personnel and technological support. In the Ways and Means Committee, we have had several hearings about the backlogs of cases at SSA, and Commissioner Barnhart has sought congressional assistance in bringing her processing systems up to date. Unfortunately, this bill will not make SSA employees' jobs any easier nor will it help reduce the backlog of pending cases. In fact, the backlogs will get worse. The House failed to provide the President's request, it provides even less than the House- or Senate-passed bills.

Some of my colleagues have defended these cuts as necessary to restore fiscal discipline to our budget. When combined with a planned 1 percent across-the-board cut, this bill will save approximately \$3 billion over last year's spending, and \$15 billion over the next 5 years. But at the same time, the congressional leadership is advancing an agenda of tax cuts that exceed \$70 billion. They are asking us to believe that it is necessary to eliminate programs and inflict pain on American families, but they are doing this not to balance the budget, but to make room for tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, when this House defeated the Labor-HHS bill prior to the Thanksgiving recess, it was because a majority of this House believed that it would jeopardize vital services for millions of Americans. The revisions in today's conference report are minimal and keep us on the same track toward wiping out key safety net programs. Therefore, I rise again in opposition to this conference report and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO GLADYS
TANTAQUIDGEON

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Gladys Tantaquidgeon, whose life's work greatly enhanced the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut.

On November 1, the woman who was rightly known as the "keeper of the Mohegan culture" died at the age of 106. Gladys Tantaquidgeon was a woman of uncommon integrity and cheerful determination. Throughout her life she devoted her skills, talents and knowledge to the revival of the Mohegan Tribe and countless lives have been enriched by her steadfastness.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon was an anthropologist and ethnobotanist. She wrote extensively about Native Americans and her knowledge was wide-ranging. She played a key role in establishing the Mohegan tribal museum. Her flawless record-keeping and her encyclopedic knowledge of the history of her tribe were instrumental in helping the Mohegans win Federal recognition in 1994.

In the Hartford Courant, Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel, Gladys's grandniece, pointed out that much of the artwork in the tribe's Mohegan Sun Casino, in Montville, was inspired by the collection of the "keeper of Mohegan culture." Ms. Zobel recently remarked, "We all have to wonder, would we be where we are today without her? She was an image from another world. It would be dishonorable not to celebrate her passing."

The Mohegan Tribe today is successful by any measure and they most certainly would not be where they are today without the perseverance and stamina of this incredible woman. Supported in no small measure by her work, the tribe has preserved its heritage and history and has created economic security for the future.

The Mohegan Sun Casino has created jobs throughout the region, has provided economic assistance to its host community and works with vendors throughout the State.

And while the tribe and the entire region mourns her death, we surely celebrate the extraordinary life of this great woman who was a descendent of Uncas, the famous Mohegan chief.

She demonstrated that the Mohegan's history is an integral and essential part of Connecticut's history. The Hartford Courant said it well, observing that Gladys Tantaquidgeon was "the living link between past and present whose diligent record-keeping led to federal recognition for the Mohegans. They are now running one of the world's most lucrative casinos and are fabulously rich. It is telling that they are prouder of their heritage than their wildly successful business venture."

The Mohegan Tribe and the State of Connecticut are better off because of Gladys Tantaquidgeon. She did much more than enable her people to secure the recognition they deserved. She taught, by word and example, that our lives as Americans are deeply entwined and that history is not something that happened in the past. History is alive and even as it reminds us of who we were, it also reminds us of what we might become.